

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received **SEP 8 1983**  
date entered

## 1. Name

historic Franklin County Courthouse

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Main and Anson Streets, N/A not for publication

city, town Farmington, vicinity of congressional district

state Maine code 23 county Franklin code 007

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Franklin County  
c/o County Commissioners

street & number County Courthouse

city, town Farmington, vicinity of state Maine 04938

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Farmington, state Maine

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Franklin County Historic  
Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta, state Maine

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Franklin County Courthouse is a 3½-story brick building with centrally-placed cupola. Stylistically, it combines the shape and bearing of a High Victorian Italianate building with Queen Anne surface treatment and some floor plan irregularities. Like most county buildings of the period, its basic plan is rectangular with the entrances on the short ends. The main entrance is surrounded by an arched brick cupola. Unusual, however, is its element of assymetry. The northwest (long) side of the building is a regular five-bayed wall with a shallow central pavillion. Combined with the flat 3-bayed sections of the short ends, likewise having shallow pavillions, the building appears to be a rectangle. The southeast wall, however, sprouts a 1X2 bayed wing to the right of its pavillion, an integral part of the building rather than an addition or ancillary section.

The windows of the first story are segmental and those of the taller second story are round-headed. The first story is quoined and the second-story bays are separated by thin pilasters. Dentils extend along the cornice of the slated, hipped roof. In the pavillions, above triple window banks on the long sides and double windows on the ends, are mosaic terra-cotta panels.

The cupola contains a ventilator and a clock, and is capped by a sheet-metal dome, from which sprouts a weather-vane.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** built, 1885, annex 1917 **Builder/Architect** George M. Coombs

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

High

This handsome and impressive /Victorian Italianate -Queen Anne block represents the work of one of Maine's foremost architects, George M. Coombs of Lewiston, at the height of his powers. It reflects sophistication in design yet avoids Victorian pretension and complexity. It is clearly Coombs' finest work in Frnaklin County.

George M. Coombs (1852-1909) was born in Brunswick, Maine and came to Lewiston in 1871 to enter the office of William H. Stevens, architect and civil engineer, as an apprentice. Soon becoming a member of the firm, now Stevens and Coombs, he succeeded as senior partner upon the death of Stevens. He later formed the firm of Coombs, Gibbs and Wilkinson, having taken in two former students as partners.

The prolific Coombs is represented on the National Register by a number of outstanding buildings which he designed including the Holman Day, Cushman and William P. Frye Houses, the Kora Shrine Temple, the Dominican Block, the Roak Block, The Lewiston Public Library, and the Oak Street School. Although now gone, he is remembered as the architect of the original Poland Spring House.

Interestingly, the courthouse annex, built in 1917 was designed by his son, Harry S. Coombs.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Lewiston Evening Journal", March 26, 1909.  
"Industrial Journal", Bangor, 1899.  
"Lewiston Journal Magazine Section", November 6, 1976.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property  $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name Farmington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	9	4	0	8	6	7	0	4	9	4	6	8	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map U15, Lots 82 & 83

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Gregory K. Clancey, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Eileen S. Feltre*

title J. H. P. O. date 9/6/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*J. Melores Byer*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 10/6/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date